

STUDENTS	J
WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL	JFCJ
	Page 1 of 4

The purpose of this policy is to provide a school environment that is safe and conducive to learning. The underlying belief of this policy is that all children have the right to be educated in a safe and nurturing environment. Also acknowledged in this policy is the need for schools to engage parent and community support to ensure that students demonstrate self respect for others.

With this policy, the Lincoln School Department adopts a zero tolerance for weapons and violence in our schools.

Definitions

Items in the following categories are defined as weapons:

- *any firearm of any description whether or not it can be fired; (e.g., pistol, blank pistol, signal pistol, starter pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, etc.)*
- *any ammunition which could be used with a firearm;*
- *any explosive device of any nature including firecrackers;*
- *any knife or similar bladed item dangerous to others; (e.g. Bowie, Dirck, lock-blade, hunting pen, picket, switchblade, utility, razor, etc.)*
- *any martial arts devise; (e.g. Chinese stars, nunchaku, etc.)*
- *any defensive weapons (e.g. gas repellant, mace, stun gun, pepper gas, etc.)*
- *any other object which school administrative staff could reasonably conclude is capable of inflicting bodily harm; (e.g. blackjack, chain, club, knuckles, night stick, pipe, studded bracelet, etc.)*
- *or any item which by virtue of its shape or design gives the appearance of any of the aforementioned (e.g. air pistol, air rifle, BB gun, etc.)*

No student shall possess a weapon, provide a weapon to another student, or demonstrate an act of violence as defined herein on any school grounds, at an official school bus stop, vehicles or property on which a school activity occurs before, during or after school hours. Possession shall mean the following:

- Holding or storing the weapon on the student's person;
- storing the weapon in a locker, container, bag, or vehicle of their own or another.

STUDENTS	J
WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL	JFCJ
	Page 2 of 4

Assault

Assault is defined as an act of physical violence or an aggravated threat of physical violence by a student on another student or staff member.

When considering what constitutes aggravated assault, the factors to be weighed include: age of student(s) involved, seriousness of bodily injury, the state of mind of the individual(s) involved, other factors deemed relevant to the principals or their designee.

Suspension

Suspension is defined as that act by a school administrator or by the School Committee that removes a student from school for a specific period of time, less than one-hundred eighty (180) days.

1. A short-term suspension is removal from a school for ten (10) days or less and may be imposed by a designated school official;
2. A long-term suspension is removal from a school for more than ten (10) days and shall be approved by the School Committee.

Police Involvement

1. In all cases involving weapons or aggravated assault in schools or on school grounds or at authorized school activities, local police shall be called, and all confiscated weapons are to be turned over to the police department.
2. A log of all confiscated weapons will be kept by school administrators and will be available to be reviewed by the local police on a regular basis.

Prior to making a student available to a law enforcement officer for the purposes of being questioned in regards to a potential violation of this policy, a building or district administrator shall adhere to the appropriate procedure as codified in state law¹ and promulgated in Lincoln Public School protocol.

Statement of Enforcement

Enforcement of this policy shall be implemented according to principles of due process. Suspensions under this policy shall follow Rhode Island Department of Education procedures and requirements for both general education students or students with an individualized education program ("IEP").

¹ R.I. Gen. Laws §16-21.5-1 et seq.

STUDENTS	J
WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL	JFCJ
	Page 3 of 4

In the enforcement of these regulations, building administrators may authorize:

1. A pupil having in his or her possession or in a desk, locker, backpack or bag any weapon identified above, or involved in an aggravated assault, as defined herein, will be referred to the Police Department.
2. Proceedings for the suspension and/or expulsion of the student involved will be initiated immediately by the building administrator
3. Decisions regarding the specific length of a student's suspension will be made by the appropriate school official or the School Committee. Any student suspended from school may not participate in school functions or be on school premises.
4. For general education students required to serve greater than ten (10) days of suspension, an Alternative Education Program shall be developed².
5. For students with IEP, the student shall consider a change in placement (Interim Alternative Educational Setting or "IAES") that shall last no more than 45 days. That student shall continue to receive educational services and a manifestation determination shall be conducted within ten (10) days of the change in placement. If it is determined that the behavior is not a manifestation of the student's disability nor a result of an incorrect or incomplete implementation of an IEP the student shall complete the suspension with services. If, however, the behavior is due to an incorrect or incomplete implantation the student shall serve a truncated suspension. Finally, if the behavior is a magnification of the student's disability, the school shall conduct a functional behavioral assessment and implement a behavioral intervention plan and maintain the IAES.
6. In the enforcement of this policy, building administrators may authorize:
 - *unannounced inspections of students' desk and lockers;*
 - *inspections of students' automobiles driven to school; and, the contents of pockets, purses and/or student book carriers, or the like, if suspected of containing prohibited, stolen, or illegal items.*
7. Each school will undertake activities designed to develop a school-wide acceptance of desirable behavior standards particularly as they relate to weapons.
 - *Administrators and staff shall encourage students to act responsibly as school citizens to report violations of this weapons policy to the appropriate individuals.*
 - *Building administrators are encouraged to use special student committees to help establish a climate of responsible behavior at all extracurricular events.*

² R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-21-27.

STUDENTS	J
WEAPONS AND VIOLENCE IN SCHOOL	JFCJ
	Page 4 of 4

- *Building administrators and staff shall maintain an open communications with parents and the community to support positive student behavior.*

First Reading: April 19, 1993
 Second Reading: May 17, 1993
 Adopted: May 17, 1993
 Policy Amended: April 11, 1994
 Amended Policy First Reading: February 13, 2023
 Amended Policy Second Reading: March 13, 2023
 Amended Policy Adopted: March 13, 2023

TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island